

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A system for managing data units stored in a storage device, the system comprising:
receiving means for receiving a new data unit to be stored in the monitoring means
for monitoring the storage status;
monitoring means for monitoring the status of the storage device, and for generating
an indication of whether there is enough free space in the storage device to store the new data unit;
weighting means for, when the monitoring means indicates that there is not enough
space in the storage device to store the new data, weighting data units stored in the storage unit
according to a predetermined weighting system; and
erasure means for deleting data units in order of weights until there is enough free
space in the storage device to accommodate the new data unit.
 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the weighting system weights the data units based on
priority and age.
 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the weighting system weights the data units in the
order of high priority, new data; high priority, old data; low priority, new data; low priority, old data
in terms of desirability to retain.
 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the weighting system weights the data units based on
priority, subject matter and age.
 5. A method for managing data units stored in a storage device, the method comprising:
receiving a new data unit to be stored in the storage device;
monitoring the status of the storage device, and for generating an indication of
whether there is enough free space in the storage device to store the new data unit;
when there is not enough space in the storage device to store the new data, weighting
data units stored in the storage unit according to a predetermined weighting system, the weighting
system weighting the data units in the order of high priority, new data; high priority, old data; low
priority, new data; low priority, old data in terms of desirability to retain; and

deleting data units in order of weights until there is enough free space in the storage device to accommodate the new data unit.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the weighting system weights the data units based on priority and age.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the weighting system weights the data units based on priority, subject matter and age.

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